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I would like to know whether the Corporation Council as such was consulted about this matter?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA DAO:—" No, Sir, they were not consulted."

Report of Ratnasabapathy Mudaliar Committee on the reform of Municipal Administration.

* 53 *Q*.—SRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have examined the report of Ratnasabapathy Mudaliar Committee on the reform of Municipal Administration; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Government are examining the report and will shortly take a decision on the recommendations of the committee."

Increase in the strength of Personal Assistants to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.

* 54 *Q*.—SRI ALEXANDER GNANAMUTTU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there has been any increase in the number of Personal Assistants to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards from 1948 to 1952, and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" Yes. The number of Personal Assistants to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has been increased in recent years—

(1) to cope with the general increase of work in the Inspector's office; and

(2) to attend to work connected with implementation of the provisions of the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, and conduct of general elections to Municipal Councils in 1952."

Scales of pay of employees of the Estate offices and the village officers of the abolished zamindaris.

* 55 *Q*.—SRI S. RAMAKRISHNAIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the officials employed in the Estate offices and the village officers of the abolished zamindaris are given the same scales of pay as those allowed to similar officers in Government service; and

(*b*) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (*a*) & (*b*) It is presumed that by the term 'the officials employed in Estate offices', the hon. Member refers to employees of